

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK MURPHY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 36 years of unstinting public service by Syracuse Housing Authority Director Frederick Murphy. I have known Fred for many years and I speak for many when I say he is one public servant who will be truly missed when he retires this week.

During his tenure, the Syracuse Housing Authority has become a national leader in developing tenant organizations and encouraging resident involvement. When Mayor Lee Alexander asked Fred to take this job in 1970, the authority was facing a number of serious problems. Working with HUD, Fred was able to reorganize the housing authority into the high performer it is today. In only a short time, the housing authority had achieved full occupancy and satisfied the residents.

Today Syracuse administers 2,500 public housing apartments, 1,300 for the elderly and 1,200 for families. Syracuse also manages more than 3,200 Section 8 vouchers, which bring more than \$15 million each year to the annual economy.

During his tenure, SHA has added 325 units of housing for elderly and people with disabilities, along with another 225 units of family housing. The success of its Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program—500 enrolled households and \$1 million in escrow—led to its selection by HUD as a prototype home ownership program.

Since 1972, Syracuse has also put \$180 million in capital funds to work modernizing aspects of every one of the city's public housing developments. Another example of Fred's leadership was the SHA decision to convert two schools to housing for the elderly, addressing an issue facing communities across the Nation.

Fred did not confine his leadership to Syracuse. He has been a strong national voice for public housing, serving on the board of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and testifying frequently before Congress.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with him on behalf of the residents of Syracuse. And while his leadership and guidance will be missed, thousands of people will continue to benefit from his work for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, due to other personal business, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Wednesday, June 28, 2006.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "no" on rollcall Number 333, "yes" on rollcall Number 334, 335, 336, 337, and 338, and "no" on rollcall Number 339.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JASON JAMES BUZZARD, UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ ON JUNE 21, 2006

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Jason James Buzzard, United States Army, who was killed in action in Iraq on June 21, 2006, when a bomb exploded near his cargo truck while he was engaged in combat south of Baghdad. Sergeant Buzzard, 31, a resident of Mendocino County, California, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Sergeant Buzzard was born in the town of Willits, California. He graduated from Ukiah High School in Ukiah, California, where he worked for a time before fulfilling a lifelong dream to join the military.

According to his wife Michele, Sergeant Buzzard "always wanted to defend his country." He joined the U.S. Army on February 18, 1998. He was stationed in Colorado and Korea before being stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, with the Second Battalion, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division.

Sergeant Buzzard was deployed to Iraq in November 2005. He excelled at his job, was highly regarded by his unit and twice received the Good Conduct Medal. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge and Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) patch, for which he was most proud.

In addition to his wife Michele, his high school sweetheart and closest companion for 13 years, Sergeant Buzzard is survived by daughter Michala Rae, son Tristan James, parents Marilyn and Jerry Buzzard, sister Kelly Lyn MacMillan, and an extended loving family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason James Buzzard died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice. It is, therefore, appropriate at this time that we honor and recognize Sergeant Jason James Buzzard, U.S. Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN B. JACOBS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs for his invaluable service to the residents of the San Fernando Valley and to people throughout the world. For the past 36 years, Rabbi Jacobs has provided an unwav-

ering commitment to civil rights and religious pluralism. This year, Rabbi Jacobs will be retiring from his position as Senior Rabbi of Temple Kol Tikvah in Woodland Hills, California. He leaves behind a legacy that exemplifies *tikkun olam*, the repair and healing of the world.

For many years, Rabbi Jacobs has worked to promote social justice and inter-faith and interracial relations. In 1999, he accompanied Reverend Jesse Jackson on an interfaith delegation to Yugoslavia. That delegation sought the release of captured American soldiers. When asked whether it was difficult to balance his spiritual beliefs with his personal feelings and political opinions, the Rabbi commented: "It is in our life as religious leaders to hold hands, even with people who are our enemies."

Rabbi Jacobs demonstrates the powerful impact that people of faith can have on our society through an unrelenting commitment to the protection of religious and civil rights for all people. He was honored in 2001 with the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award, presented for his efforts to promote and preserve religious liberty.

Rabbi Jacobs has served as an influential member of the Progressive Jewish Alliance, the Southern California Board of Rabbis, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the UNICEF National Board, and the Muslim American Homeland Security Congress of the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department. He chaired the Governor of California's Task Force on Refugees and was a delegate to the United Nations' Conference on Refugees.

As part of his exemplary international work, Rabbi Jacobs participated in an interfaith delegation to El Salvador. He also served on a mission to Prague, Czech Republic, working in conjunction with the North American Board of Rabbis to improve Jewish-Catholic relations.

Rabbi Jacobs continues to fight racism against Muslims and to foster improved Muslim-Jewish relations in Los Angeles. In 2004, he collaborated with the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Anti-Defamation League to condemn terrorism. His efforts to denounce hate speech have allied him with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and many other similar organizations. I am pleased that he will continue his work through his most recent endeavor, the Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs Progressive Faith Foundation, whose vision is to promote the values of interfaith acceptance in the public and private sectors.

The Rabbi has also fought for wage reform to help ensure a living wage for all workers. He has also worked to mobilize the traditional coalition of African Americans and Jews to ensure fair and honest elections.

It is my honor to congratulate Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs for his noble career as Kol Tikvah's senior rabbi. His work has strengthened communities of faith, increased positive social action, and added to international understanding and cooperation. He has touched and improved the lives of people of all faiths not just in the San Fernando Valley but throughout the world.